APPLYING TO THE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH) OR GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH (GCPH)

The School of Nursing offers a Master of Public Health or Graduate Certificate in Public Health online in Primary HealthCare and Health Disparities (PHCHD). This track of the Oregon Master of Public Health (OMPH) program is based upon the concepts and principles of primary healthcare. The World Health Organization (1978) defines primary healthcare as "essential healthcare based on practical, scientifically sound and socially acceptable methods and technology, made universally available to individuals and families in the community through their full participation and at a cost that the community and the country can afford to maintain at every stage of their development in the spirit of self-reliance and self-determination". In this view, primary healthcare is both a philosophy of healthcare and an approach to providing health services. By emphasizing improvement in primary healthcare accessibility and quality for underserved populations, this degree program prepares graduates to tackle health disparities in a unique way.

Healthcare disparities threaten efforts to improve health in the US and abroad. The presence of these disparities pose moral and ethical dilemmas that will be among the most important challenges to today’s rapidly changing healthcare systems. The cost of inadequate care may have significant implications for overall health care expenditures. Persistent racial and ethnic inequality creates a rift in the social fabric. As long as disparities are present, overall healthcare quality will be poor.

The Health Disparities Track of Public Health program is offered as part of the joint OHSU/PSU School of Public Health.

Course Delivery
This program begins in the fall and is offered online in either full or part time in a fully online modality to Oregon residents and beyond.

Application Deadlines & Decisions
Applications open each September for a fall term entry with established application deadlines that can be found at: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/deadlines.cfm. All materials must be submitted by the identified deadline in order to receive priority* consideration.

- (*)Late applications may be accepted after the priority deadline if seats are still available but this is not guaranteed. Applicants wanting to receive full consideration should submit all materials by the identified deadline(s).
- Note: Applications close at midnight on the designated deadline date Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Admissions decisions are strongly based on the following criteria:
- Cumulative GPA
- GRE score (MPH only)
- Essay response
Admission Requirements & Eligibility

Applicants must have the following materials in order to apply to the Master of Public Health-Primary Health Care and Health Care Disparities and Graduate Certificate in Public Health. If you are an international student please see the international applicant web page for additional requirements if you are a resident of a country other than the United States.

Prior Degree
It is expected that applicants to the public health graduate programs have a Bachelor’s Degree from a regionally accredited institution. It is not required to hold a nursing or medical degree.

Work Experience
Work experience is not required for either program. OHSU welcomes applications from those who are new to the public health field as well as from more experienced public health professionals.

Grade Point Average
Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0

Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Scores (Master of Public Health applicants only)
The OHSU School of Nursing GRE code is 4900. OHSU recommends a minimum score of 500 in each section (verbal and quantitative) as well as a minimum analytic writing score of 4.0 for the scoring scale used prior to August 2011 or a 144 in the quantitative section, 153 in the verbal section, and a minimum analytic writing score of 4.5 to be competitive.

- GRE scores are only required for those applying to the Master of Public Health program. Applicants to the Graduate Certificate program are not required to submit standardized test scores. Master of Public Health applicants may submit MCAT scores in place of GRE scores.
- Applicants who already hold master’s degrees from accredited US institutions do not need to take the GRE.

Statistics
Must successfully pass a basic statistics course with a grade of "B-" or better prior to entry into the Master of Public Health program.

- Applicants to the Graduate Certificate program are not required to meet the statistics requirement.

Letters of Recommendation
Applicants must submit three letters of reference as part of their application. Electronic reference forms are located and sent out via the online SOPHAS application system. It is preferable that applicants submit references from the following:
- A supervisor
- An instructor
- A co-worker or other
**Entrance Essay Question**

- You will be asked to provide a written essay(s) as part of your application. Please see the link to the essay instructions for this program located on this page:
  
  http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/index.cfm

**Applying to OHSU School of Nursing Via SOPHAS**

| STEP 1: Set up a SOPHAS account and start your application for the program/campus to which you are applying. | • All students applying to any of the OHSU Nursing programs must submit an application through SOPHAS by the stipulated deadline date.
• The SOPHAS application fee is $120
• SOPHAS runs on Eastern Standard Time and applications will close on the designated date at 12:00 PM EST. |
| --- | --- |
| STEP 2: Upload all required items into your SOPHAS account and select the designated OHSU program to which you would like to apply.  
Note: GRE scores are sent directly to OHSU code: 1045 | • All application materials (official transcripts, essay responses, vitae, & letters of reference) must be received by SOPHAS by the designated application deadline in order to have your application considered. See the full list and instructions below.  
• SOPHAS will not forward incomplete files for review. Please make sure to check your SOPHAS account to ensure that you have provided all required materials. |
| STEP 3: Done. Check back to your SOPHAS account often as we will e-mail you with status updates and additional information requests. | • You will be notified when admission decisions have been made. |

**Materials that will be submitted as part of your SOPHAS Application**

- You will be asked to submit an essay response as part of your application. Between September 1 and your application deadline, you will be able to find the essay question(s) for your program at the following link: [http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/index.cfm](http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/index.cfm). Complete the essay question and load your essay response to your SOPHAS application. After uploading your personal statement, go to “Designations” on the home page of your SOPHAS account, select “designated schools” then Oregon Health & Science University and ATTACH the personal statement to your designated program.  
- You will be asked to submit 3 letters of reference as part of your application. You will be able to send the electronic reference form from your SOPHAS account.  
- You will be asked to submit a resume or vitae as part of your application. Please PDF these items and upload them to your SOPHAS account.
You will be asked to submit official transcripts from ALL institutions that you have ever attended as part of your application. Follow the instructions provided in your SOPHAS application to submit your official transcripts to SOPHAS directly.

1. **Note:** Order 2-3 copies of your transcripts to keep for your records for later use if needed upon matriculation.

Please send questions about program information to proginfo@ohsu.edu.

**Additional Resources**

A sample program of study for each program can be found online: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/programs/programs-of-study-page.cfm

**Application Deadlines:** http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/gradute_deadlines.cfm

Financing your education: Start planning to finance your nursing education now. Review the tuition and fees and potential limitations for receiving federal aid here: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/tuition-fees/index.cfm

**Scholarship information:** http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/tuition-fees/scholarships.cfm

This document is a guide; final decisions regarding the acceptance of prerequisite course work is made by the OHSU Registrar's Office. The OHSU School of Nursing reserves the right to make changes to the academic program structure.

**FAQs**

**Who are my faculty and lecturers?**

Many MPH faculty and guest lecturers are known experts in their field as OHSU is part of a large academic health center. This is advantageous as these experts lecture from their relevant experiences and programs of research, providing students with the latest evidence.

**How long does the master's program take?**

The estimated length of time to complete the master's degree is two years. The Graduate Certificate in Public Health (GCPH) can be completed in one year.
I’m a student in the Graduate Certificate in Public Health (GCPH) and would like to earn the Master in Public Health; can I change programs?

Students who have matriculated in the GCPH and would like to eventually earn the Master of Public Health will need to complete the certificate program and fill out a “program modification form” to request a program change. You can request the program modification form from your program advisor.

Do most students work during the MPH program?

Yes. Many students work are able to work both full time and part time depending on the course load per term.

Is there a matriculation (enrollment) deposit?

Yes, once you have received a letter of acceptance to the program, you will be asked to submit a deposit of $200.00 to the OHSU School of Nursing in order to hold your place in the cohort. Failure to do so in the time allotted will forfeit your place and an alternate will be selected. The matriculation fee is applied towards payment of tuition for the first term of the program.

How much are Tuition and Fees?

The estimated tuition and fees sheet can be found online and does not include living expenses or books, http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/tuition-fees/index.cfm

Financial Aid Options: Students in the MPH program are eligible for financial aid. Those in the Graduate Certificate option are not eligible for financial aid. Please contact the Financial Aid Office for more information: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/student-services/financial-aid/index.cfm.

Equal Opportunity/Non-Discrimination Policy

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity operated by recipients of federal aid. OHSU complies with Title IX and 34 CFR Part 106 by prohibiting sex and gender discrimination in education programs, activities, employment, and admissions. Inquiries about Title IX compliance or sex/gender discrimination may be directed to the OHSU Title IX Coordinator: Michael Tom, Director of the Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity (AAEO) Dept., 503-494-5148, tomm@ohsu.edu. Mailing address: OHSU, Mail code MP240, 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road, Portland, OR 97239. Office: Marquam Plaza